

REMARKS

Claims 1-9 and 18 are cancelled leaving Claims 10-17 and 19 pending for examination. Claims 10, 12 and 19 have been amended to replace the term "sloping plane" with "tapered surface" as described in paragraph 21 of the specification. Claim 17 has been amended to recite a spray unit comprising an angled piece. Support for these changes can be found in paragraph 23 of the specification.

The drawings were objected to under 37 C.F.R. § 1.83(a). Tapered surfaces 27 and 28, which replace the objected terminology "sloping plane," are illustrated in Figure 3. With respect to the objection of the term "connecting methods," Applicants gratefully acknowledge the Examiner's clarification that the objection is instead directed at the term "coupling elements." This portion of the objection is traversed. Coupling elements 25, which are disclosed in paragraph 21 of the specification, are also illustrated in Figure 3. In view of the amendments to Claims 10, 12 and 19, because the terms "tapered surface" and "coupling elements" are shown in the drawings, no correction to the drawings is deemed necessary. Withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

The objections to Claim 1 raised in paragraph 3 of the Office Action have been rendered moot by the cancellation of Claim 1.

With respect to the objections raised in paragraph 4 of the Office Action, the term "sloping plane" in Claims 10, 12 and 19 has been replaced by "tapered surface," the term "receiving chambers" in Claims 10, 14 and 19 has been replaced by "chambers," and the term "chamfered terminal areas" has been deleted from Claim 17. No further correction is deemed necessary. Withdrawal of the objections is respectfully requested.

The rejections of Claims 1, 10 and 19 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, are respectfully traversed.¹ In Claims 10 and 19, the term "clamping device" has been clarified to recite the use of a clamp that engages the tapered

¹ The rejection as to Claim 1 is moot in view of the cancellation of Claim 1.

surface. As disclosed in paragraph 9 of the specification, such a clamp may be as simple as screws having a conical tip which cooperates with the recesses. Applicants respectfully submit that the clamps or clamping structures are well known and define known structure to those of skill in the art. No further clarification is therefore deemed necessary. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

The rejections of Claims 1-9, 17 and 18 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, are respectfully traversed. Claims 1-9 and 18 have been canceled and the term "chamfered terminal areas" has been deleted from Claim 17. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

The rejection of Claim 1 under the judicially-created doctrine of double patenting over Claim 6 of co-pending U.S. Patent Application No. 10/825,621 is respectfully traversed. By this amendment, Claim 1 has been canceled. Thus, noting the rejection, insofar as independent Claims 10 and 19 are concerned, each requires that coupling elements are used to connect modular spray units. The coupling elements communicate with spray passages and reach into both chambers at the ends of the spray units, and include a passage and a recess having a tapered surface. Because no such coupling element is disclosed or suggested by co-pending Application No. 10/825,621, the claims of the instant application are patentably distinct.

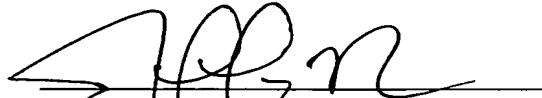
If there are any questions regarding this amendment or the application in general, a telephone call to the undersigned at (202) 624-2995 would be appreciated since this should expedite the prosecution of the application for all concerned.

Serial No. 10/825,332
Reply to Office Action
February 7, 2006

If necessary to effect a timely response, this paper should be considered as a petition for an Extension of Time sufficient to effect a timely response, and please charge any deficiency in fees or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 05-1323 (Docket #028972.53933US).

Respectfully submitted,

February 7, 2006


Jeffrey D. Sanok
Registration No. 32,169

CROWELL & MORING LLP
Intellectual Property Group
P.O. Box 14300
Washington, DC 20044-4300
Telephone No.: (202) 624-2500
Facsimile No.: (202) 628-8844
JDS:MWR (2708142)